

# Serving Us Today

**Disciples:** All Members

**Organist:** Ginny Beamish

**Minister:** Don Crist

**Altar Decoration:** Becky Pierce

**Liturgist:** Earl Reives

**Head Usher:** Mike Beamish

**Choir Director:** Becky Pierce

**Counters:** Mike Beamish &  
John Gibbons

**February 2024**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship	5	6	7 10a History Team 10a Membership & Outreach 6p Choir	8	9	10
11 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship	12	13	14 10a History Team 4:30p M&W 6p Choir	15	16	17
18 9:30a Adult Sunday School 10:30a Worship	19	20	21 10a History Team 6p Choir	22 10a Council	23	24
25 9:30a Adult Sun School 10:30a Worship 5p-7p Family Night	26	27	28 10a History Team 6p Choir	29		



**February 4, 2024**

**“A Word From Elmo”**

**Happy Birthday!**

Logan Wilson 2/7



**St. John’s United Church of Christ**

**130 S Walnut St**

**Troy, OH 45373**

**(937) 335-2028**

## INTROIT

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Liturgist)

A friendly welcome to all! No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.

### BELLS TO WELCOME THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRELUDE "O Worship the King" Roger C Wilson

\*OPENING WORDS Now you are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. adapted from Ephesians 2:9

SONG OF THE MORNING #30 (Red Hymnal)

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

*Liturgist: Holy, holy, holy is the God of hosts; the whole earth is full of God's glory.*

**People: Our hearts are filled with thanks, O God. We bring before you our songs of praise.**

*Liturgist: Let the thresholds shake with the power of God's voice. Let all the people tremble before God's glory.*

**People: God's purposes endure and will be fulfilled. Our lives can be channels for God's grace.**

### \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (In Unison)

**O God, whose presence fills this place of gathering, we bow before your majesty in awe and wonder. When we consider the vast universe of your dominion, we are humbled by your attention to us. Your steadfast love and faithfulness amaze us. Show us the tasks we can accomplish for you and grant us the courage to reach out in your name to do them. Amen.**



### New Member Exploration Class

Pastor Don is planning a new member exploration class in the new year. The first two meetings will be February 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am in The Gathering Place. Anyone is welcome to join us. This is an exploration class and not a commitment to become a member of St. John's.

### Giving Statements

The 2023 annual giving statements are now available in the narthex.



Please join us next week at 9:30a in the café for Adult Sunday School. The topic will be "We Don't Have a Clue: God Is Still Speaking," with Mike Beamish leading.

Our Children's Space is located through the door at the front of the sanctuary. We know there may be times that children's needs may differ. Families are welcome to come to the area at any time during the service. Simply follow the signs and you will find our children's rooms thoughtfully prepared for your family, including a live feed for you to follow along.

### Attendance and Giving

Total Attendance last week 1/28/24 = 33

	General Fund Donations	
Week of 1/28/24	Month of January	Monthly Budget
\$445.00	\$3,809.00	\$9,507.00

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*(All are welcome at this table. As the bread and then the cup are passed, receive the elements and hold them until we all eat and drink together.)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**All: God, we give you thanks for this meal that nourishes us, body and soul. May it sustain us as we confront evil that keeps us from living the lives you intended for us and for all your creatures and creations. Until every life can be lived abundantly, be our guide, be our hope, be our comforter. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: #349 "I Come With Joy" (Black Hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*(All Hymns used by permission, CCLI License#11076943)*

# God is Still Speaking,

**CHOIR ANTHEM:** "Blessing for a New Year"

John Ritter

## A TIME FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES

## MORNING PRAYER

Don Crist

## THE LORD'S PRAYER: (In Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN

If there are children with us this morning, we invite them to come to the front at this time to have communion together. All children are welcome at the Lord's table. We are glad you are with us.

## WELCOME TO FACEBOOK LIVE VIEWERS

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Mark 10:13-16

## SILENT PREPARATION FOR LISTENING

We invite you to use these few moments of silence to welcome the Inner Teacher to speak to you as Don shares the morning message.

## SERMON

"A Word From Elmo"

Don Crist

## OFFERTORY INVITATION (Liturgist)

*When we are genuinely thankful for the steadfast love and faithfulness of God, we are eager to share this bounty. When we truly discern the grace of God, we want others to experience it, too. Christ calls us to reach out to our sisters and brothers with the good news of God's reign. Our offerings help to take God's Word to the world.*

## OFFERTORY

"Minuet"

G.F. Handel

**\*DOXOLOGY: (In Unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, Ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*DEDICATION PRAYER: (In Unison)**

**Your voice, O God, we have heard. Your presence has moved us to respond. Send us where you want us to go. Use the resources we dedicate here to empower others to witness to your love and care. Fill our lives with thanksgiving. Fill our days with purpose. We rededicate ourselves to work and worship that express our profound gratitude for life and all its opportunities. Amen.**

**CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: The Holy One be with you

**All: And also with you**

*Liturgist: Open your hearts to the One who is Love*

**All: We open our hearts to you, O God**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God, our life-breath

**All: To the One who sustains us, we rejoice in your presence!**

*Liturgist: With gratitude, O God, we remember that it is through you that we are made truly alive. Every creature and creation – all that is has been shaped by you. There is nothing on this earth that has not been touched by your sacred hand.*

Pastor: In your love for us, you claim us – individually and as a whole – as your beloved ones. You will for us life abundant and you invite us into co-working with you towards a world where harmony among all life is restored.

**All: And yet, daily, we turn away from you and one another. Destructive and divisive powers lure us away from connection and relationship. We forget that we need each other. We pretend that our lives are not deeply entangled. When injustice threatens our neighbors, we too easily cower or hide.**

*Liturgist: But you do not abandon us to our fear or sin. In the life of Jesus, Love enfleshed, we are shown that the invitation to join in your work of transforming and healing and restoring is always open. No matter our past. No matter our regrets. No matter the wrong done to us or the wrong we have done to others, you keep calling us back to you.*

Pastor: In the life of Jesus, we are given an example of that love enfleshed. On the night of his arrest, he gathered around a table with his companions. He took bread, blessed it and broke it -

**THE BROKEN BREAD**

Then, he gave it to his disciples and said, “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

He did the same with the cup after the supper, he poured the cup and offered it.

**THE OFFERED CUP**

He passed it to them all saying “This cup that is poured out is the new covenant.”

And so in remembrance of the One who never gave up on love, we pray that the Spirit would make us one. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, that through these ordinary gifts, we might taste a glimpse of your Kingdom. May they be for us a reminder of what we are capable of becoming and what we are capable of accomplishing together. Amen.